

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian ~ February 2019 Edition

**The mission of the United Methodist Church is to
make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

Words for the Journey.....

A worldwide United Methodist Church leadership meeting will take place February 23 – 26. This meeting will likely change our local church and your relationship with this pastor. I am worried about this meeting.

Every United Methodist Church is a member of an Annual Conference. Every year each church sends the pastor and a member of the church to the Annual Conference meeting. We here in Lowell are a part of the Indiana Annual Conference. Nancy Lain is our representative. June 12 - 15 she and I will attend a set of meetings in Indianapolis as we represent this church.

Every four years each Annual Conference around the world sends representatives to General Conference. The General Conference is the official policy making board of our church. For the past several General Conference sessions there has been a group asking to broaden our policies on human sexuality.

Everyone agrees that those with any type of sexual desires are welcome in any worship service in any United Methodist Church anywhere in the world. The question is whether our pastors are allowed to perform marriage ceremonies for non-traditional couples. And should active and free non-traditional sexual behaviors prevent one from being a pastor? And other such questions following this line of thinking. Again, everyone is welcome to attend any service in any church. That is not the debate.

At our last General Conference session on May 10 – 20, 2016 in Portland, OR, the ruling body asked the Council of Bishops to make a decision on this issue. The Council of Bishops formed a task force and called for a special General Conference session. That session will be February 23 – 26 in Saint Louis, MO, to discuss this issue.

The task force has suggested three recommendations. 1) The United Methodist Church will divide into three groups. There would be, for example, The United Methodist Church Historic, The United Methodist Church Progressive, The United Methodist Church Moderate. Each local church and each pastor would decide which branch to belong. 2) The church will remain with her historic roots. Those who wish to take the church in a more progressive route are invited to leave and become the founders of a new denomination. 3) The church will follow this progressive trend. Those who wish to keep the church within her historic roots would be invited to leave. 4) Some other plan that was submitted ahead of time, but not widely acknowledged at this time.

The General Conference will vote on which direction the church will head into the future. As you might be feeling uneasy just reading this story, there are no easy answers.

It is likely that no matter which direction the General Conference takes, some group will not be happy. It is possible that there will be many hurt feelings and much division within our established United Methodist Church. This is never pleasant.

Following our governing rules, no matter what the General Conference decides, the individual Annual Conferences will vote to accept or reject their ruling. This legal process will drag out for a number of months, if not years.

Please pray for great wisdom and grace for this special General Conference Session. If those church representatives follow God's leading, it is possible that our United Methodist Church will remain strong and intact. Be careful of the news that you hear from the General Conference meetings. It is possible that news organizations might sensationalize the events.

May God be glorified through our United Methodist Church.

Pastor Rick

February Sunday Sermon and Scripture Schedule

February 3 ~ Communion

Scripture ~ John 6:60-70

Sermon Title ~ *'Home with Jesus'*

February 10 ~

Scripture ~ Mark 9:2-7

Sermon Title ~ *'Honoring Jesus'*

February 17 ~

Scripture ~ Acts 9:32-43

Sermon Title ~ *'Just Like Jesus'*

February 24 ~ Al Martin speaking

Scripture ~ Isaiah 43:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sermon Title ~ *'New Life'*



Worship News

Co-Chairs Linda Hayden & Trudy Corning

Be Still and Know That I Am God, Psalm 46:10

To help center our hearts on worship, a new banner will soon adorn our sanctuary. It will hang in the alcove on the west side of the sanctuary.

Planning for Lent.

Although Easter is late on the calendar this year, we are already starting to plan for the Lenten season. We have plans to hold a food drive again during Lent. This was an amazing success last year. Our donations will be shared with the various food pantries in our community.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will be March 6. We will meet to worship in the sanctuary at 7 pm. The ashes that will be used on this special evening are from the palms we joyously waved last year during our Palm Sunday worship service. Join us to begin your Lenten journey. Childcare will be available.

A new look started in January!

Kid's bulletins are now available for worship each Sunday! The bulletins include fun activities while following Pastor Rick's scripture lesson. See Paige Corning, Children's Director, or an usher to get yours! Thank you Paige!

Greeters

One way we welcome our community into our church is through our Greeters. Each Sunday, greeters are stationed at the lower east entrance and in the narthex to extend a friendly hello and a warm smile to all those who join us. Thank You to those who currently are a part of this rewarding ministry! We appreciate your dedication! If you would like to be a part of this hospitality ministry or learn more about becoming a greeter, please contact Darion Kidwell, Trudy Corning or the church office.

Below is a list of the members of the congregation who will be participating in various aspects of worship during the month of February:

February 3: Greeters: Bev Johnson, Carol Olson, Mark and Barb Lindemer
Ushers: 8:00: Lynn Bochart, Bob Savich 10:30: Elaine DeVine, Dennis Olson
Liturgist: 8:00: Denise Smith 10:30: Cheryl Jones
Children's Time: Paige Corning

February 10: Greeters: Linda Snell, Maryrose Lynch, Amy Nichols, Virginia Kasparian
Ushers: 8:00: Don Bales, Kathy Nelson 10:30: Sharon Sanders, Tom Stoner
Darin and Tammy Champanois
Liturgist: 8:00: Becky Crabb 10:30: Kathy Taylor
Children's Time: Becky Crabb

February 17: Greeters: Gisela Peterson, Jenny Nichols, Phyllis Moser, Carolyn Savich
Ushers: 8:00: Charlie Haberlin, Wayne Wietbrock 10:30: David Perry, Scott Beier
Liturgist: 8:00: Lynne Haberlin 10:30: Susan Wells
Children's Time: Kathie Stoner

February 24: Greeters: Anita Childress, Jenny Nichols, Peg Atherton, Nina Wilson, Dennis Olson
Ushers: 8:00: Bill Bubness, Scott Spry 10:30: Luan Brown, Ken Bisacchi
Liturgist: 8:00: Deb Kelley 10:30: Tom Stoner
Children's Time: Beth Bales



Thursday BRD4Life Dinner/Worship Service (Bread for Life)

Our mid-week service, Bread for Life, offers an informal experience that will nourish both your body and your spirit.

Dinner begins at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall and worship starts at 6:15.

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!

Below are the speakers, themes, and cooks for the month February:

February 7 ~ Speaker: Darion Kidwell Cook: Kim McGinley
Theme: *Send a Card to a Friend Day*

February 14 ~ Speaker: Rick Bachman Cook: Kevin Corie
Theme: *Valentine's Day*

February 21 ~ Speaker: Pastor Rick Cook: Carol Goodrich
Theme: *Washington Monument Dedicated in 1885*

February 28 ~ Speaker: Susan Wells Cook: Ellen Rosengard
Theme: *National Tooth Fairy Day*

What Happens When We Are Generous

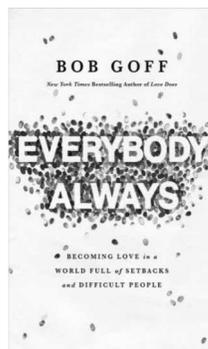
Finance Committee

Our generosity to God and others not only touches God and other people, it also changes us. As human beings we were created with the need to be generous. When we are generous – to God and to our families, friends, neighbors, and others in need - our hearts are filled with joy. They are enlarged by the very act of giving.

One of our acts of giving is committing to the service of tithing, an act that confirms our faith, our belief, our commitment to the ministries of God’s kingdom. The church is responsible for praying and discerning how God wants these resources to be used. Tithing can be a challenging idea for many of us. It can be a stretch, especially for those who are wrestling with the voices of fear and self-gratification. Tithing may not be possible for you. But a step such as making a pledge commitment is a step in the right direction.

Our church would like our congregation to know that we have an incredible pledge commitment that was confirmed through the final analysis of the 2018 pledge year. Out of the totals that were pledged a year ago we experienced 97% “follow through” on those pledge commitments related to the General Budget and 96 % for the Capital fund!!!! These totals demonstrate that our congregation supports the ministries of the Lowell United Methodist Church.

In closing we would also like to share that those pledging for 2019 totaled 89 (5 are new pledges) with 35 of those pledges increasing their 2018 pledge commitments. God’s ministries are carried out through the kind hearts which are filled with joy, supported by hope and embraced by love. We hope, we pray that we can continue to reach out beyond our walls to serve wherever needed.



Adult Education Opportunity...

The FRIENDS class will begin a new study on February 3 called, “Everybody Always.” In this five-session video Bible Study, author Bob Goff shares some of the stories from his life that have helped him understand what it truly means to love everybody the way Jesus loved them – without fear, insecurity, or restriction. Join us in Room 304!

MINISTRY IN ACTION

Caring for You and Helping You Care for Others...

That's what Congregational Care is all about!

Submitted by Trudy Corning

Keeping tabs on your Blood Pressure? Nurses from our congregation are happy to check it for you!

The Nurse Is In the first Sunday of each month after the 8 am service

and before the 10:30 service in the church office. See you there!

Prayer Blankets

Do you know someone who is hurting physically or spiritually?

Do you know someone who needs to know God loves them?

Do you know someone who needs to know others are praying for them?

Our church has an answer for you!

Our church has a Prayer Blanket ministry and you are a part of it! It's purpose is to lift up those who are physically or spiritually hurting; who are in the hospital, nursing home or shut in at home; who need to feel Gods love: who need to know that they are not alone, that they are being prayed for, that someone cares about them during a difficult trial.

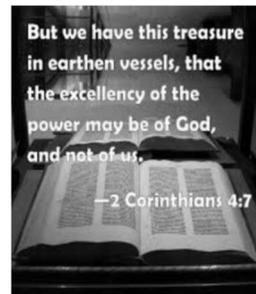
The prayer blankets have been prayed over and are located in the church library ready for delivery. Anyone, including you, can deliver the blankets. Just pick your favorite, follow the easy check out instructions and deliver the prayer blanket.

Thank you for caring for those in need!



Lowell UMM Warriors for Christ

A United Methodist Men Moment



I have a Facebook friend named Roger Frye. He is in a wheel chair, I don't know exactly why, but I know he used to ride motorcycles. He turned me on to the Christian Rider Ministry Facebook page. Roger wrote this great article citing two passages from 2 Corinthians.

“There could be a Cadillac driven by Elvis Presley and it would sell Millions, but the same Cadillac driven by me would only cost \$45,000. It wasn't as much the price of the car as it was who had owned or driven the Cadillac before. It was all about the Person and not the Object. The disciples' greatness was not because of who they were as individuals. It was because of who called and used them. This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in a common earthenware jar to show the splendid power of it belongs to God and not us.”

“We are handicapped on all sides, but never frustrated, we are puzzled, but never in despair, we are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: We may be knocked down but we are never knocked out.”

2 Corinthians 4:9 ~ Love and Peace (Roger Frye)

May God continue his many blessings of our Church.

Craig Wilson

UMM President

Love Thy Neighbor Week ♡

No act of kindness no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop

The missions committee would like you to share love with acts of kindness.

Sunday, February 10 thru Sunday, February 17.

Love Thy Neighbor Week will celebrate the joy found in sharing love in simple ways!!

Forms with ideas will be available starting Sunday February 10.

Hebrews 13:2 ~ Kindly look up and reflect on this scripture to help you get your heart ready for **Love Thy Neighbor Week!**

Susan Wells, Missions Chairperson



Tempting Services

Lynn Bochart

Tempting Services are coming!

Once again our theme for Tempting Services is Expanding, Extending, and Building the Church Family. God has provided each of us with talents that we can use to reach out in our service **to enrich the lives of others.** By sharing your talent you can, also, help our ministries thrive & grow. **Let's bring people together!**

Will you share your talent? This can be a simple service, an item, or a treat that you can offer for sale.

All of the proceeds from the sale of your talents will help support the many missions of our church. Details will be announced soon.



I want to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits, lemon poppy seed bread, cookies, and other good wishes during the holiday season. You are a very caring congregation that spreads lots of love and cheer and I deeply appreciate it.

Thanks again! Love, Mary Stuart

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Thank you to everyone who prayed for my son-in-law Bob with his current illness. He is in remission now. Your prayers have really worked.

Sam and Nancy Wilson

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I would just like to take the time to thank everyone who helped me through my latest hospitalization and rehabilitation. Whether it was a card, cookies, or prayers it was so very much appreciated. You are all a true blessing.

Marion Nelson

CHURCH EVENTS

Movie Night

Our next movie night will be on Friday, February 15, at 6 p.m.
in the church Fellowship Hall.

We will show the movie 'God's Compass'

Everyone is welcome. Bring a snack to share.



Christian Musical Artist

Michael Card

Sunday, March 10

He will teach at our morning worship
Services at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
and then will host a Concert at 2:00 PM

There is no cost for any of these events

Facebook ~ Lowell First United Methodist Church

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - *Worship* ~ 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (in sanctuary), *Children's Sunday School* 9:15-10:15 (basement)

Youth & Adult Sunday School 9:15-10:00 ~ WINGS (300), F.O.M. (301), Youth (303), FRIENDS (304)

Monday - A/A 12 p.m. (rm. 300), Guitar 6 p.m. (rm. 303)

Tuesday - Household Pantry 9-12 and 5-6 (1st and 3rd Tuesday)

Wednesday - Weight Watchers 6 p.m. (300), A/A - 8 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8 p.m. (library)

Thursday - *BRD4life* dinner 5:30 p.m., *Worship* 6:15 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Leaps and Bounds Pre-School Open House 5-7pm Alpha/Barbara May Circle 1:30pm (library)	2 Children's Valentine Party 1 p.m. (basement)
3 Membership Class 9:15am (conf. room)	4 Tri-Kappa 6pm (bsmt) Staff/Parish 6pm (conf. rm.)	5 Children's Council 7pm (library) Crock Pot Classes 3:30p (bsmt)	6 UMW Executive Meeting 4:30pm (301)	7 VBS Planning 5:30 pm (conf. rm.)	8	9 United Methodist Men's meeting 9 a.m. (basement)
10 Membership Class 9:15am (conf. room)	11 Susanna Wesley Circle 1pm (library)	12 Crock Pot Classes 3:30p (bsmt) Trustees 6:30pm	13	14	15 Movie Night 'God's Compass' 6pm (basement)	16 Birthday Party (basement)
17	18	19 Crock Pot Classes 3:30p (bsmt)	20	21 Meadowbrook POA meeting 4:30 pm (301) VBS Planning 5:30 pm (conf. rm.)	22	23
24	25	26 Crock Pot Classes 3:30p (bsmt)	27 Worship Meeting 6:30pm	28		